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1993 Letter to Edward Rudolph "Ed" Bradley, Jr. of CBS by Angela Bowen

Angela Bowen

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60 Minutes Bowen: 1993 Letter to Edward Rudolph "Ed" Bradley, Jr. of CBS by Angela Bowen
524 W. 57th St.
New York, NY 10019

April 5, 1993

Dear Ed Bradley:

In reference to the April 4 broadcast on the "Rainbow Curriculum," how sad it is for me, under triple jeopardy as a Black, a woman and a lesbian, to hear the insufferable self-righteous pride with which a Black woman vows to keep another minority "way down second." Black people cannot afford to cavalierly adopt a stance of unexamined bigotry. You also do a disservice to the intelligence of your viewers by simplifying the conflict as if only white homosexuals exist. There are many thousands of Black lesbians and gay men waging a simultaneous war against homophobia and racism. Are we supposed to pretend that one oppression feels easier? Statistics show that one-third of teen suicides are committed by youths discovering they are gay and being terrified by attitudes like hers. She repeatedly asks, "How dare they?" to lesbians' and gay men's connecting of homophobia with racism. I respond to her, "How dare you declare that there's no connection? You speak from the ignorance of knowing only one side. Black lesbians and gay men know the pain of both."

Angela Bowen,

member, National Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays